

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. Amendments to claims 1 and 12 are supported by at least Figure 2 and the description at page 12, lines 20-22 of the present application.

Claims 1-7, 9-19, 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,323,440 (Maruyama) in view of U.S. 4,728,753 (Nakano). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Maruyama discloses in Figure 15 four positioning walls 45, 46, 73, 74 that are provided independent from each other so as to be brought into contact with an electronic component 47 at substantially center positions of all four sides of the electronic component 47 (see further Figures 16 and 17). Nakano discloses in Figure 9 positioning walls of the movable pawls 11a, 12a that restrain an electronic component 2a at the short sides of the electronic component 2a, but not at the long sides of the electronic component 2a (see Figure 8). Thus, neither Maruyama nor Nakano discloses the “positioning wall extending continuously along four sides of the electronic component,” as required by claims 1 and 12, and the claims that depend from them.

The positioning wall required by claims 1 and 12 provides improved mechanical strength and stiffness of the positioning wall, and therefore provides improved accuracy and positioning in an electronic component. Thus, even if the electrodes of the circuit board are arranged at narrower intervals, a poor connection between the electrodes connecting points (bumps) of the electronic component does not occur.

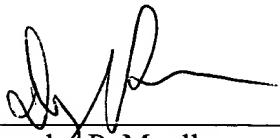
In contrast, the positioning walls disclosed by Maruyama and Nakano have relatively poor mechanical strength and tend to result in poor connections, particularly in the case where the electrodes of the circuit board are arranged at narrow intervals. Thus, Maruyama and Nakano fail to disclose a configuration that provides this advantage of the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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